



COMPASS

Community Participation for Action in the Social Sector
NIGERIA



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COMPASS PROJECT

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In Nigeria, as in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, poor health care and inadequate basic education go hand in hand with high levels of poverty. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with more than two-thirds of its population living on less than \$1/day. In response to these economic and population pressures, access to quality education and health services is declining.

Nigerian-American Partnership

In partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the Community Participation for Action in the Social Sector (COMPASS) Project. This five-year project combines the expertise of five American and four Nigerian partner organizations to engage local communities in building high quality, integrated health and education services. Focusing on reproductive health, child health, and basic education, COMPASS integrates the work of three former USAID-funded projects – VISION, BASICS II, and LEAP – for greater impact. In addition, COMPASS collaborates with two other USAID-funded projects: GHAIN, which addresses HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and ENHANSE, which addresses health and education concerns through policy and advocacy.



The COMPASS Vision



COMPASS unites the commitment and energy of communities; local, state, and federal governments; and national and international experts to provide quality health care and education services which respond to the needs of millions of women, men, and children in Nigeria.

COMPASS envisions...

- ▶ mothers safely giving birth to their babies
- ▶ healthy children living well beyond their fifth birthday
- ▶ women and men successfully promoting health and education for their communities and within their families
- ▶ girls and boys equitably acquiring literacy and numeracy skills

The COMPASS Approach

The community is at the heart of the COMPASS approach. Working with participating Local Government Areas (LGAs) and building on pre-existing community advocacy structures, COMPASS draws on proven methods to form coalitions of community health and education groups representing the public, private, and non-profit sectors. These coalitions define community health and education needs, plan and advocate effectively for resources to meet those needs, and deliver quality health care and education. The community-driven process ensures accountability, as well as sustainability beyond the life of the project.

COMPASS addresses issues of primary school retention, achievement, and completion (with emphasis on the success of girls); routine immunization; polio eradication; improved nutrition; breastfeeding and neonatal care; malaria prevention and treatment; reproductive health and family planning/child spacing; safe motherhood; female genital cutting; and gender-based violence. Based on approved action plans, community coalitions and other groups may receive COMPASS grants to help them achieve their health and education goals.

COMPASS Goals

By 2009, COMPASS will have improved the health and education status of 23 million Nigerians in the four states of Bauchi, Kano, Lagos, and Nasarawa, and in the Federal Capital Territory. Anticipated end-of-project results include:

- ▶ communities and local governments actively improving access to quality health and education services
- ▶ health facilities and schools adhering to national policies and standards of practice
- ▶ teachers and health providers applying recognized best practices to improve the quality of their work
- ▶ pupil enrollment, retention, and achievement steadily increasing, and school environments fostering girls' participation
- ▶ all family members receiving appropriate and timely health care services
- ▶ significant reductions in childhood diseases and maternal and infant death and
- ▶ LGAs regularly and accurately planning and budgeting for health and education services.





COMPASS Partners

The nine-partner COMPASS team, led by Pathfinder International, has a wide range of state-of-the-art technical and management expertise. Each of the partners contributes specialized technical and strategic direction in project implementation. Members of the core team include:

Pathfinder International

Adolescent Health Information Project (AHIP), Nigeria

Civil Society Action Coalition on Education For All (CSACEFA), Nigeria

Creative Associates International, Inc. (CAII)

Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Nigeria

Futures Group

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (CCP)

Management Sciences for Health (MSH)

Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Nigeria

During the project, the COMPASS partnership will expand to include additional organizations whose work will complement the activities and assistance provided by the core team.



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For more information please contact
the Central Coordinating Office:
COMPASS Project
Plot 1456, Justice George Sowemimo Street
Off TY Danjuma Street, Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: 234-9-672-0021/2
Fax: 234-9-314-7380
E-mail: info@compassnigeria.org
Website: www.compassnigeria.org

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Center for Communication Programs

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